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BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
RYUKISHI07

ART BY
MIMORI

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

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Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

...YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT OCCULT SPOTS IN JAPAN WITHOUT MENTIONING THIS VILLAGE.

IF PLACES OF OCCULT INTEREST WERE DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WHO DIED THERE...

CHAPTER 0

HINAMIZAWA

ARAKAWA-CHAAAAAN!

WEEKLY SEVEN
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

ZAWA (CHATTER)

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA (CHATTER)

I SAW THIS MONTH'S "SPECIAL GHOST VILLAGE EDITION"!!

YOU WROTE ABOUT HINAMIZAWA? MAN, THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!

PURURURURU

PURURURURU (RRRRRRING)

TOP BURST: MAJOR! / BALLOON: KAMEDA / BOTTOM BURST: MAJOR PLAYER!

AFTER THAT, RELATIVES OF HINAMIZAWA RESIDENTS MYSTERIOUSLY DIED OR WENT INSANE, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER— POISONOUS GAS POURED OUT OF THE SWAMP, WIPING OUT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE IN ONE NIGHT.

AND THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING: "THAT WASN'T A NATURAL DISASTER...

SFX: PURURURURU

YOU MEAN HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME?

I WAS A STUDENT AT THE TIME, SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN, WHAT, TWENTY YEARS AGO? IT WAS A HUGE DEAL.

MAGAZINE: MONTHLY / MYSTERY!! / OCCULT

"...IT WAS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

BOOK SPINES (R-L): UNSOLVED MYSTERIES / ...BY KURAUDO OOISHI / RECORDS / —PHOBIA
BOOKS: MAN-EATING DEMONS / HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY
NOTE: HINAMIZAWA

AND SO...

KO TON

KO TON (TAP)

SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND SOMETHING IF I WENT TO CHECK IT OUT.

...URK, DON'T TELL ME, YOU—

OH?

BUT A DIFFERENT THEORY HAS STARTED GOING AROUND THE INTERNET IN RECENT YEARS.

AND IT HAS QUITE A BIT OF CREDIBILITY. ALTHOUGH SOME OF IT IS JUST THE "YEAH, RIGHT" KIND OF GOSSIP.

...I'LL BE PAYING HINAMIZAWA A LITTLE VISIT.

EEHHHHH!!?

Y... YOU WROTE ABOUT IT YOURSELF!! "DON'T GO IN JUNE," YOU SAID!

OH, COME ON, SAKI-PIE.*

*INFORMAL SLANG FOR SENPAI, A TERM USED TO ADDRESS A SENIOR COWORKER

I'M GOING IN JUNE *BECAUSE* THAT'S WHEN YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GO.

WRITING ARTICLES FOR MY READERS, HEEDLESS OF THE DANGER!! THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A JOURNALIST!

AHEM!

WELL, ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT I DON'T COME BACK, PLEASE GO AHEAD AND ASSUME THAT I'VE BEEN "DEMONED AWAY."

HEH. YEAH, RIGHT.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY, ARAKAWA!!!

I WARNED YOU!!

AWAWA (PANIC)

HIRA (WAVE)

HIRA

GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF!

JUST A GHOST VILLAGE...? I DON'T THINK SO.

I KNOW IT WAS A NATURAL GAS DISASTER ON A BIG ENOUGH SCALE TO KILL NEARLY ALL THE VILLAGERS, BUT KEEPING THE PLACE OFF-LIMITS FOR TWENTY WHOLE YEARS...

EVERYONE IS TOO AFRAID TO GO NEAR IT.

BUT I HEAR IT'S ACTUALLY A WONDERFUL PLACE!!

.....

DON'T YOU... WANT TO GO...?

HEY. IT'S SUR-ROUNDED BY NATURE, AND THE SCENERY IS BEAUTIFUL, THE AIR IS DELI-CIOUS.

I BET IT WOULD BE A GREAT CHANGE OF PACE.

...

I...

I GUESS... NOT...

YOU'LL...

...DO THE DRIVING, RIGHT?

!!

BA (FWP)

BIKU (WINCE)

...Y...

YES !!

I MEAN...

LET'S GO...

...IT'S THE ONLY PATH...

コレが 雛見沢村だ!!
ヒナミザワムラ

...TO HINAMI-ZAWA ...

BOX: SPECIAL FEATURE / BURST: THIS IS HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE!! / NOTE: A CURSED VILLAGE?! / A GHOST VILLAGE?!

RAIN...

ZAAAAAA (SHHHHH)

BU (BZZ)

BU

BU

BU

BU

BU

BU

BU

BU

BU

BIKU (WINCE)

...STILL OPEN TO ME.

PO (DRIP)

HAH... HUFF...

PU (CLICK)

BU

BU

BI (BEEP)

BA (BAM)

BU BU

PACHIN (FLICK)

BU

BU

BU

SAAAAAA

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

.....!

IT'S OKAY...

IT WILL BE OVER SOON.

IT WILL ALL BE OVER.

SAAAAAA (SHHHHH)

ハアアアアア

(AAAAAAAAAA)
(SHHHHHHS)

YES.

WHEN
THE
HIGURASHI
CRY.

HUFF!

ZA

ZA (RUSTLE)

HUFF!

2006, EARLY SUMMER

ZA

ZA

ZA

I KNOW I HEARD IT!

HUFF!

HUFF...!

HUFF!

HUFF!

ZA

...I HEARD IT!

HUFF ...

HUFF!

ONE EXTRA FOOT-STEP!

CHAPTER 1

BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC

THINKING ON IT NOW...

...MAYBE I HAD BEEN ON THE WRONG PATH...

GOOOO (VROOOM)

...ALL ALONG.

AKUTAGAWA-SAN!

WHAT? YOU DON'T THINK IT'S JUST THE SUNSET?

HEY, LOOK, MACHI-CHAN.

IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN, DOESN'T IT?

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF WE OPEN THE WINDOW?

ゴオオッ…

GOOO (VROOOM)

YES, THAT'S FINE.

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA (CHIRP)

WOW! LISTEN TO ALL THOSE HIGURASHI!!

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

SO PRETTY ...

IT REALLY IS...

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT'S AN ABANDONED VILLAGE.

LOOK, CHIAKI-SAN! LOOK, LOOK!

THE VIEW IS AMAZING!!

WHY DON'T PEOPLE LIVE HERE ANYMORE?

OH YEAH...THIS PLACE WAS ABANDONED, WASN'T IT?

HEY, HEY, OTOBE-KUN!

...HMM...?

I DUNNO.

YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, AKUTAGAWA-SAN?

YES. I SUPPOSE IT HAPPENED ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO.

IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS FOR A WHILE.

ALL THE MAGAZINE SAID WAS THAT IT'S AN OCCULT SPOT...

HA HA

OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE ALL TOO YOUNG TO KNOW.

UNTIL JUNE OF 1983, THAT IS...

HINAMIZAWA WAS NOTHING MORE THAN ONE OF MANY SMALL, FORGOTTEN JAPANESE VILLAGES. NO ONE PAID IT ANY MIND.

BOKU (GULP)

WHY...? WHAT HAPPENED ...?

LATE ONE NIGHT, WHEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WERE ASLEEP...

...POISONOUS VOLCANIC GAS SUDDENLY ERUPTED FROM A SWAMP UPWIND AND ENGULFED THE WHOLE VILLAGE.

TWO THOUSAND LIVES WERE LOST IN JUST ONE NIGHT.

IN SOME CASES, IT EVEN CAUSED SOME PEOPLE TO DEVELOP EXTREME NEUROSES.

IT WAS SUCH A BIZARRE OCCURRENCE THAT EVERYONE AT THE TIME WAS AFRAID IT MIGHT HAPPEN WHERE THEY LIVED.

HEADLINES: 'GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER / LATE-NIGHT NIGHTMARE

BUT THAT WASN'T THE END OF IT.

ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL RELIGION OF THE VILLAGE, THE GAS DISASTER WAS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE." MANY OF THE VILLAGERS' RELATIVES BLINDLY BELIEVED IT...

...AND THEY WERE DRIVEN TO MADNESS, CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE HAUNTED BY THE CURSE. SOME OF THEM WERE VICTIMS OF MYSTERIOUS MURDERS AND ARSONS!!

BACKGROUND: OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA. OYASHIRO-SAMA.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S... ...CURSE...?

AND THIS IS THE VILLAGE THAT WAS THE CENTER OF IT ALL.

HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE.

GOGO (VROOOM)

...IT SOUNDS LIKE A WITCH HUNT...

AND THE WHOLE NATION OVERREACTED. REPORTS OF DISCRIMINATION SWEPT THE COUNTRY AS PEOPLE OSTRACIZED ANYONE RELATED TO THE VILLAGE.

...THAT'S UN-REAL...

SO IT'S NO WONDER IT TOOK OVER TWENTY YEARS BEFORE PEOPLE WERE ALLOWED TO VISIT AGAIN.

TO THINK THAT SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE WAS COVERED IN GAS UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

WHIIN (VNNND

OH YES.

APPAR-ENTLY THE GAS KEPT ERUPTING AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS AFTER THAT.

I SIMPLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

PACH. (SNAP)

YOUR "CAN'T BELIEVE IT" JUST REMINDED ME.

I HEAR THERE ARE GHOSTS HERE.

SINCE THE VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED IN ONE NIGHT ...

...IT'S HAUNTED BY THE SPIRITS OF VILLAGERS WHO HAVEN'T REALIZED THEY'RE DEAD YET...

NORMAL PEOPLE ARE TOO SCARED TO EVER GET CLOSE ...

...TO THE LIFE-LESS, DESERTED VILLAGE.

A VILLAGE OF THE DEAD, A GHOST VILLAGE ...

...THAT'S WHAT THE ARTICLE MADE IT SOUND LIKE.

PACHIN (SNAP)

110

OF COURSE, THOSE "DEAD" WOULD BE LIMITED TO PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE VILLAGE, RIGHT?

GYU (CLENCH)

.....

VILLAGE OF THE DEAD...

IS YOUR CELL PHONE THAT FASCINATING?

...MACHI-CHAN?

PACHIN

.....

PACHIN

PACHIN

PACHIN

HA-HA! OF COURSE. NOT OUT IN THESE MOUNTAINS.

圏外

N-NO! I'M NOT GETTING SERVICE ANYWAY...

CELL: OUT OF RANGE

AKUTA-GAWA-SAN!

OR—

DID YOU FORGET TO CALL SOMEONE?

NO...!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS. AND...

GOOOO (VROOOM)

OH, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

NO PRYING!

OTOBE-KUN.

GYUUU (SQUEEEZE)

I... I!

...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...BUT...

...SO DO WE...

.....

KOTSU (TMP)

YEAH...

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S OKAY.

IT WILL BE OVER SOON.

OVER...

PO
(DRIP)

SAAAAAAA
SHHHHH

CHA
(CHAK)

PASHA (SPLASH)

BAN (BAM)

PAN (POP)

PASHA

PASHA

PEKO (BOW)

PACHIN (SNAP)

...ALREADY NINE, HUH...?

PASHA (SPLASH)

PASHA

IT'S TOO DARK. I CAN'T SEE A THING.

THEY COULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME STREET-LIGHTS...

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

KYORO (GLANCE)

キョロ・・・

...SHOULD I GO BACK? BUT...

SIGH

WAS THERE A FLASH-LIGHT OR SOMETHING IN THE CAR?

SAAAAAA (RAAAAAIN)

U—

ZU
(SLIP)

!!

UWA-

AHH!

NGH...

OW... WWW...

ZA CRUSTLED

ZA

ZA

ZA

DOSA (THUD)

...AND I BROKE MY UMBRELLA.

WHY DOES THIS...

WHY ...?

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

BOW

YORO (STAGGER)

PASHA (SPLASH)

PASHA

FIRST, I NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN...

MLIKU (STAND)

NGH...

...ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?

PASHA

PASHA

PASHA

—TA (STEP)

PETA (STEP)

PASHA

PASHA

PASHA

...EH?

PASHA (SPLASH)

PASHA

PETA (STEP)

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN (BADUM)

DOKUN

DOKUN

A FOOTSTEP. THERE WAS...

...ONE FOOT-STEP.

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

WHO'S THERE!?

BA (TURN)

ONE EXTRA...

"WHO'S THERE," YOU ASK? YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.

SHIN (SILENCE)

NORMAL PEOPLE ARE TOO SCARED TO EVER GET CLOSE.

NO ONE WOULD COME TO THIS VILLAGE.

NO ONE.

WAAHH!!

BASHA (SPLASH)

BASHA

AAHH!!

NO ONE!!

NO ONE'S THERE!

YOU'RE HEARING THINGS!!

THEN WHAT WAS THAT FOOT-STEP I JUST HEARD?

WAS I HEARING THINGS!?

BUT I'M SURE I...

U—

AAAHH!!

NOT A SINGLE LIVING PERSON...

"LIVING" PERSON ...?

PASHAN (SPLASH)

...THEN ...

...IS THERE SOMEONE THERE...

...WHO'S NOT ALIVE ...?

ナアアアアアア

SAAAAAAA
SHHHHHH

DOKLIN

EEP ...!

DON (WHAM)

DOKLIN

DOKLIN (BADUM)

DOKLIN

DOKLIN

DOKLIN

SHE GAVE OFF ...

...A STRANGE VIBE.

I COULDN'T TELL IF SHE WAS ALIVE OR DEAD.

DOKLIN

DOKLIN

DOKUN (BADUM)

...HAD I TAKEN A WRONG TURN?

WHERE ...

I HAD DEFINITELY

ZAAA...
(RAAAAAA...

WANDERED INTO AN EXTRAORDINARY WORLD.

MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, A NATURAL GAS DISASTER RENDERED HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE A WASTELAND.

BECAUSE OF THE STRANGE INCIDENTS AND THE RUMORS THAT CIRCULATED AFTERWARD, IT IS NOW A DESERTED GHOST TOWN. EVERYONE THINKS IT'S TOO EERIE TO GO NEAR IT.

DOKUN

ドクン

DOKUN (BADUM)

ドクン

THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

ZAAAAAAAA

OR THERE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE...

CHAPTER 2

Special Thanks
Ryukishi07-sama
Mochizuki-sama
Koizumi-sama
Morinaga-san
Naitou-san
Higashi-san
Everyone in my family

IZAAAAAA
(SHHHHH)

IT COULDN'T BE...

...A KATANA ...?

IT'S LONG AND THIN ...

IS IT A PIPE? A BO-KUTO* ?

WHAT IS THAT ...?

HA (GASP)

*A WOODEN SWORD USED IN PRACTICING MARTIAL ARTS

WHAT SHOULD I DO...? SHOULD I TALK TO HER? NO, I'LL WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS GO...

DOKUN

IT'S WEIRD ENOUGH THAT THERE'S SOMEONE HERE AT ALL...

DOKUN (BADUM)

DOKUN

DOKUN

BOKU (GULP)

JARI (CRUNCH)

!

PITA (STOP)

WAIT...!

GH...!

BAS! (CLAMP)

CRAP...! IT JUST CAME OUT!

SHIN (SILENCE)

SAAAAAA (SHHHHH)

AND I GOT LOST...AND, UM...

UM, I CAME HERE TO DO SOME SIGHT-SEEING!

DAMMIT... I'M DESPER-ATE!!

ZA-ZA (RUSTLE)

...WHERE I CAN FIND A PLACE WITH PEOPLE...?

IF... IF IT'S ALL RIGHT ... ... WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME...

PEOPLE?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE, THERE ARE PEOPLE BACK THE WAY I CAME.

EVEN SOMEONE AS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA AS YOURSELF SHOULD REACH THE PLACE BY DAWN IF YOU WALK IN THAT DIRECTION.

THOUGH YOU MIGHT TAKE A WRONG TURN AND WANDER INTO YAGOUCHI.

HEH-HEH-HEH!

PA (SHOO)

PA

HA!

DON'T JOKE WITH ME. I CAME OUT HERE ON BUSINESS OF MY OWN.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO MEET YOU.

HO (WHEW)

...OH GOOD. SHE'S HUMAN... I THINK.

UH...UM, IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD TAKE ME THERE...

SAAAAAAA (SHHHHHH)

IN OTHER WORDS...

TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN PROBLEMS. IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THE VILLAGE, THEN DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

...DO EVERY-THING YOU CAN ...

...TO FIND THE WAY BY YOURSELF.

AH HA HA HA!

START WALKING AND GET OUT OF HERE ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET.

...YOU WANT ME TO STAY STUCK HERE ALL NIGHT LONG...?

GIRI (CLENCH)

...GH!

AND IF I CAN'T...

AH!

WHERE...

BASHA (SPLASH)

...ARE YOU GOING?

IF I CAN JUST MAKE AN EXCUSE TO FOLLOW HER...

.....

I HAVE BUSINESS ...

...IN FURUDE SHRINE...

...UP...

...

AHEAD.

SHRINE?

SAAAAAAAA (SHHHHHH)

PICHAN (SPLISH)

EH?

.....

SATO... SHI?

HA-HA!

TO THINK I WOULD RUN INTO SUCH A FAMILIAR FACE IN THIS VILLAGE AFTER BEING AWAY FOR SO LONG, EVEN IF HE IS A DIFFERENT PERSON!!

AKIRA OTOBE.

HA (GASP)

"SATOSHI" ?

NO, I'M AKIRA...

YOU SURPRISED ME...YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.

A COINCI-DENTAL RESEM-BLANCE, HMM?

?

AND OF ALL PEOPLE, I MEET SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE SATOSHI!

WHAT KIND OF COINCIDENCE IS THIS? IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL TO MEET ANYBODY IN THIS GHOST VILLAGE.

? ?

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME?

WELL, UNLESS YOU'RE PLANNING TO STAND IN THE RAIN UNTIL MORNING...

THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF DES-TINY.

CAN I?

Y... YES!!

DON'T ANSWER A QUESTION WITH A QUESTION.

THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

WHETHER YOU CAN OR NOT, I ASKED YOU TO COME.

YOU HAD BETTER DRY OUT THOSE DRENCHED CLOTHES.

IF THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED, THERE SHOULD BE BLANKETS IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

ZAH (STEP)

ORO (FLINCH)

ORO

UH, P-PLEASE LET ME COME WITH YOU!!

...UM, DID YOU LIVE IN THIS VILLAGE?

ZA (STEP)

ZA (STEP)

PASHA (SPLASH)

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, AFTER ALL.

THOUGH IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THERE ARE HOLES IN THE ROOF AND THE TATAMI MATS ARE ROTTING.

ZARI (STEP)

...OH, I'M SORRY.

I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF.

I'M MION. MION SONO-ZAKI.

I AM INDEED A RESIDENT OF THIS VILLAGE.

SO...YOU SURVIVED? THAT GREAT DISASTER?

AH, OR ARE YOU RELATED TO SOMEONE FROM THIS VILLAGE...?

!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WALKING AROUND THIS GHOST VILLAGE WITHOUT AN UMBRELLA AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FIRST.

YOU'RE JUST FULL OF QUESTIONS, AREN'T YOU, OTOBE...?

YOU SAID YOU WERE SIGHTSEEING, BUT I DOUBT YOU'RE HERE ALONE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

I...

UM...

I DUNNO.

.....
.....

YOU DON'T KNOW?

I DON'T KNOW...I... I MEAN...

THEY DISAP-PEARED ...

IT STARTED WITH A MAGA-ZINE.

IT TALKED ABOUT THIS VILLAGE, SO MY FRIENDS AND I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED INTERESTING AND CAME FOR SOME SIGHT-SEEING.

ON THE WAY, I NEEDED TO USE THE BATH-ROOM...

11"9 BATAN (SHUT)

...SO I GOT OUT OF THE CAR BY MYSELF.

BUT IT WAS PITCH-BLACK OUTSIDE. I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING, AND I FIGURED I WOULDN'T GET VERY FAR LIKE THAT.

SO I WAS GOING TO GO BACK FOR A FLASH-LIGHT.

WHEN I TURNED AROUND ...

...WAS GONE.

THE CAR...

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, IT HAD DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE!!

WHEN I STEPPED BACK IN SURPRISE, MY FOOT SLIPPED, AND I FELL...

THAT'S WHEN I BROKE MY UMBRELLA.

EH...?

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

!

THAT'S NOT UNCOMMON IN THIS VILLAGE.

MI—

MION-SAN!

LOOK!!

THERE'S A PLACE TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN!!

IF THERE'S A LIGHT, THEN THAT MEANS SOMEONE'S THERE, RIGHT?

A LIGHT!!

IS THAT FURUDE SHRINE...?

TA (DASH)

THANK GOODNESS...! LET'S HURRY, MION-SAN!

I WAS RELIEVED TO NOT BE ALONE ANYMORE ...

...BUT I CAN'T TRUST HER.

THAT'S NOT UNCOMMON IN THIS VILLAGE.

...WH—

WHAT... IS IT...?

DOES SHE KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING!?

OTOBE.

ビク

BIKU (WINCE)

ZOKU
(CHILL)

UNDER-STAND?

DO YOUR BEST NOT TO MAKE A SOUND.

OTOBE.

UH... UM ...?

...?

(GLIDE)

Y-YES, MA'AM.

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

DOKUN

DOKUN BADUM

IS SHE SAYING THERE'S SOME-THING OVER THERE ...?

IT'S A CAR!! I KNEW THERE WERE PEOPLE THERE.

AH.

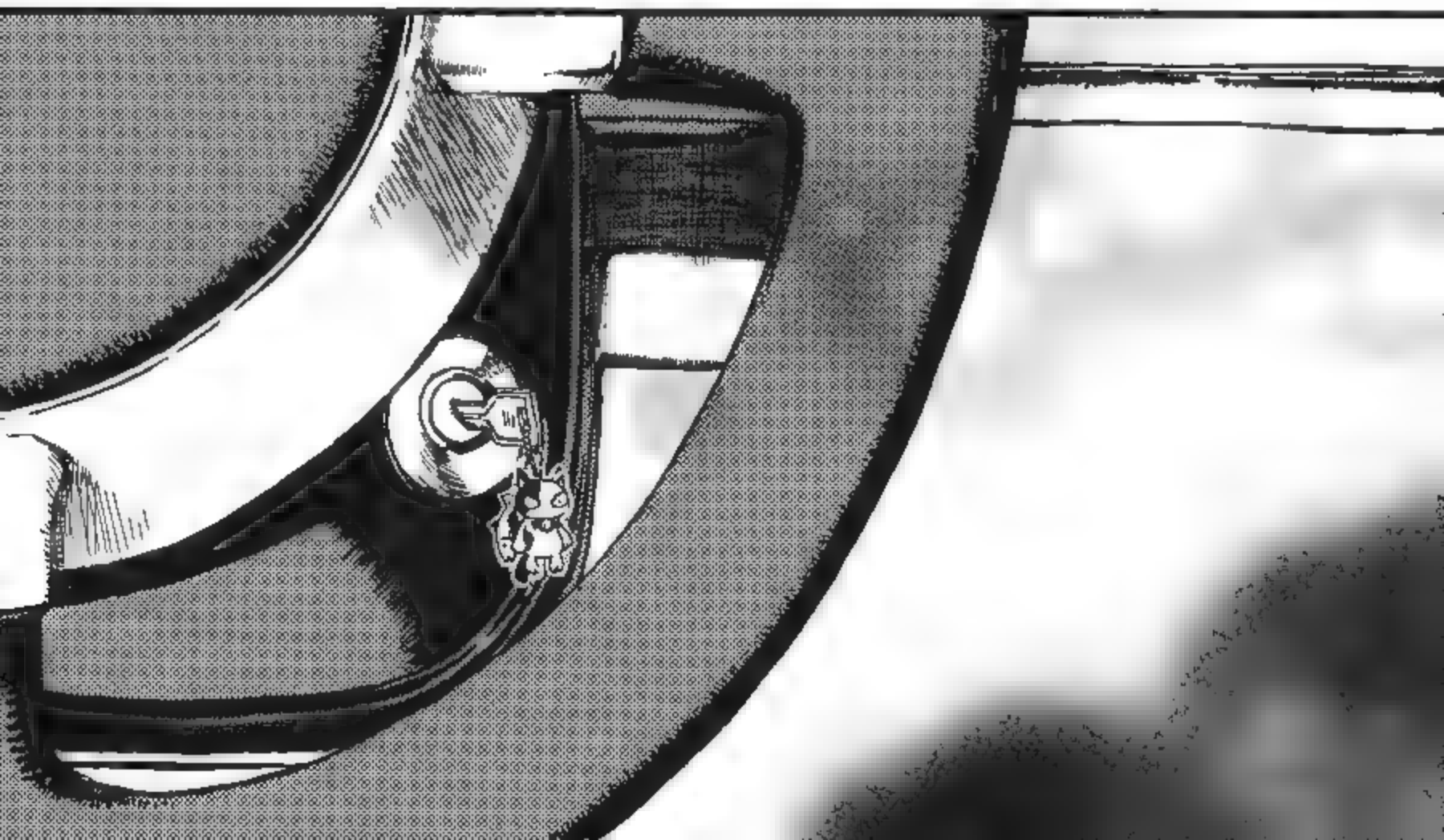
SAAAAAAA (SHHHHH)

DO YOUR BEST NOT TO MAKE A SOUND.

I...I'M SORRY.

JI (STARE)

AH...!



KOSO (WHISPER)

MION-SAN... UM, IS THERE SOMETHING THERE?

.....

GOKU (GULP)

ZAAAAAAA (Shhhhhh)

OH...

AH HA HA

HA HA HA

...THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

WAAAHH!! KEIICHI-SAN IS BEING MEAN TO ME!!

SATO-KO!!

POOR POOR THING, SIR.

YOU'RE SO ADOWABLE, SATOKO-CHAN! I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!!

AH HA HA

AH HA HA

...MION-SAN?

THIS IS FURUDE SHRINE.

IT WOULD SEEM...

...THAT LIGHT FROM BEFORE...

...CAME FROM THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

SAAAAAAAA~ SHHHHHHH?!

CHAPTER-3

SAAAAAAAA (SHHHHHH)

THE RAIN...

...ISN'T LETTING UP.

OH, WHO CARES? IT'LL STOP EVENTUALLY.

I...I CAN'T! I'M DRIVING!

FORGET ABOUT IT AND HAVE A DRINK...

...YAE.

CAN: ALUMINUM

AND HEY, DO YOU REALLY NEED TO BOTHER CLEANING UP?

NOBODY'S IN THIS DESERTED VILLAGE ANYWAY.

BUT—

AW, IT WON'T HURT IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE!

COME ON!

I SAID I CAN'T...

GASA (RUSTLE)

...WOULD YOU...

IRA (IRK)

...SHUT UP ALREADY!! I SAID COME OVER HERE AND HAVE A DRINK!!!

PAAAN (WHAAM)

PURU (TREMBLE)

PURU

...NGH...

AH... I'M S...

I'M SORR.. RY..!

HA (GASP)

IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!! SO DON'T MAKE IT BORING FOR ME!!

TAKUMI-KUN... I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.

TAKUMI-KUN...

GORON (ROLL)

NEVER MIND.

...TCH!

GU (CLENCH)

TAKUMI-KUN...

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY ...

HEY.

813

.....

BAG (L): KATAYAKI SENBEI BAG (R): BEER SNACKS CHEESE

TAKUMI-KUN?

ARE YOU ASLEEP?

CHI (TICK)

...SIGH...

CHI

...ELEVEN O'CLOCK...

SIGN: PUT THINGS AWAY

PASA (FLAP)

OOF...

ZURU (SLIDE)

GARA (RATTLE)

GASHAAAN (CRaaaSH)

!!

...HE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE BOY...

GOOD NIGHT, TAKUMI-KUN...

—...

WHAT?

Ан...

Ан-на...

はぁ...
HAA (SIGH)

カタン
KATAN (CLATTER)

はっ！

...AND YOU TOLD ME NOT TO MAKE A SOUND...

I...I'M SORRY. MY FOOT SLIPPED...

WHO'S THERE ...?

WHO...

BA (TURN)

!

AH...! WE'RE NOT ANYONE SUSPICIOUS!

ORO (FLUSTER)

...EH ...?

...UH...

WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN, AND WE FOUND THIS PLACE ...

MION-SAN! PLEASE TAKE THE CLOTH OFF THAT POLE YOU'RE CARRYING! YOU'RE SCARING HER.

UM, WE REALLY AREN'T ANYONE SUSPICIOUS!

AH!

.....

WILL YOU LET US STAY WITH YOU UNTIL THE RAIN LETS UP?

SIGN: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

THIS VILLAGE IS SUPPOSED TO BE DESERTED. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET SO MANY PEOPLE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN.

BAGS (R-L): SEAWEED SALT, COVERED IN SEAWEED / KAKI AND PI NUTS, ¥100

ALL WE HAVE ARE SOME BEER SNACKS, THOUGH...

SIGN: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

SIGNS (R-L): DEFENSE ALLIANCE / —THE DAM / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

AH!

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT?

CHIRA (GLANCE)

BY THE WAY ...

DO YOU HAVE ANY ALCOHOL? JAPANESE SAKE WOULD BE GREAT!

I WOULD LOVE SOME!!

OH! NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT US...

KA!!

DOKKA (PLOP)

MION-SAN

...IS THAT YOUR HUSBAND LYING ON THE FLOOR OVER THERE?

HE ONLY JUST MANAGED TO FALL ASLEEP.

LET HIM BE... PLEASE?

HEEEY, SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, STOP SLEEPING AND COME JOIN US...

BUN (WAVE)

BUN

I...I'M SORRY!

AH...!

WE... WE'RE NOT MARRIED...

OH, YOU'RE NOT?

GUBI (SIP)

YOU'RE QUITE THE EASY-GOING HUS-BAND.

WHAT'S THIS? YOU DITCH YOUR WIFE TO SNORE AWAY ALL BY YOUR-SELF?

CAN: KUROKAME

SIGNS (L-R): ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

鬼ヶ淵死守同盟

...ONIGA-FUCHI...?

OTOBE.

*ONIGAFUCHI LITERALLY MEANS "PIT OF DEMONS"

GASA (RUSTLE)

YES?

HERE

YOU EAT SOME-THING TOO.

KUCCHA (MUNCH)

KUCCHA

SQU.D

BAG: MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH / CHEESE BALLS / DELICIOUSNESS

HERE!

COME ON, EAT! EAT!

PALE ...?

YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO PALE AND SKINNY.

GASA

ER...

UM...

TH... THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.

GOOD BOY!

HEY, BY THE WAY, CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BROCCOLI AND CAULIFLOWER, OTOBE?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SIGN: NO SMOKING

HOW DID... ...YOU TWO GET TO THIS VILLAGE?

WE DROVE HERE...

ME TOO. I DROVE HERE WITH MY FRIENDS... ...BUT...

...EVERYONE DISAPPEARED ON THE WAY...

ARE YOU SURE ...

...THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU SAW?

I KNOW THAT'S WHAT I SAW! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

DISAP-PEARED ?

...YES.

AS SOON AS I GOT OUT TO ANSWER THE CALL OF NATURE.

THE WHOLE CAR.

SHIN (SILENCE)

BAGS (R-L): SOY SENBEI / CHEESE BALLS

...HEH...

N-NO, I'M SORRY...

I...I'M SORRY FOR SHOUTING.

HA (GASP)

CANS (R-L): CANNED— / PEACH CHUHAI / KAMESHIRO / JAPAN

HEH.

HEH HEH...!

HEH HEH HEH!

CAN: KUROKAME / GOOD LIQUOR TASTES GREAT

EH...?

...YOU DON'T KNOW...

SO I SUPPOSE IT'S NO WONDER...

RIGHT, YOU TWO AREN'T FROM HERE.

THEY CALL IT...

DE-MONED ...

...AWAY ...?

...“DEMONED AWAY.”

BAG (R): MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH DELICIOUSNESS / CHEESE BALLS

BUT "DEMONED" AWAY...? NOT "SPIRITED" AWAY?

HINAMIZAWA USED TO BE CALLED ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE.

BAG (L): SOY

GUBI (GULP)

THE VILLAGERS SAID THEY WERE "DEMONED AWAY."

PEOPLE IN THESE PARTS WERE ALWAYS DISAPPEARING SUDDENLY WITHOUT A TRACE.

MION-SAN USED TO LIVE IN THIS VILLAGE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...?

HA (GASP)

ONIGA-FUCHI ...

SIGN: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

THE SWAMP THAT GAVE THE VILLAGE ITS NAME IS SAID TO STRETCH DEEP ENOUGH TO REACH HELL... OR SO GOES THE TALE.

BA (TURN)

ONCE UPON A TIME, A LONG TIME AGO ...

...DEMONS APPEARED FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SWAMP AND ATTACKED THE VILLAGERS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

AND THEN ...

...THE GOD KNOWN AS OYASHIRO-SAMA DESCENDED AND CALMED THE DEMONS.

THE DEMONS WERE GIVEN HUMAN FORM AND MADE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THE VILLAGERS.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

...THE BLOOD OF THOSE DEMONS RUNS IN THE VEINS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE.

THEY ARE HALF-MAN, HALF-DEMON.

AND NOT JUST ANY DEMONS ...

...MAN-EATING DEMONS.

IT IS SAID THAT FROM TIME TO TIME, THE BLOOD OF THE MAN-EATING DEMONS REVIVES IN THE VILLAGERS WHO DESCENDED FROM THEM.

AND THEY GO DOWN TO THE VILLAGES BELOW AND CARRY PEOPLE OFF.

THAT IS WHAT WE CALL "DEMONED AWAY"!!

NOW YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND.

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A CAR...

...MUCH LESS A PERSON, TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS VILLAGE.

NO...!!

...GOT MIXED UP IN SOME STRANGE BUSINESS AND DISAPPEARED ...?

TH- THEN I... NO, MY FRIENDS ...

BUT THIS HAS INDEED BEEN A STRANGE EVENING. I SHOULDN'T HAVE MET ANY LIVING PERSON HERE IN THIS GHOST VILLAGE...

...AND YET THANKS TO THIS STRING OF COINCIDENCES, I'VE RUN INTO A GROUP OF THEM.

TAPUN (SPLISH)

--ME

--.5 PROOF

TO (GLUG)

TO

TO

BASHA (SPLASH)

...AT THIS RATE...

CAN: KUROKAME

BASHA

...AT LEAST ONE MORE PERSON ...

...SHOULD BE ARRIV-ING, I THINK.

BASHA

IT'S TERRIBLE! COME ON!

!!

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA

EX-CUSE ME!!

SOMEBODY!! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

DOTA (STOMP)

DOTA

.....?

A PHONE! I NEED A PHONE! NOW...!

I NEED TO CALL THE POLICE, FAST...!! A PHONE, A PHONE, A PHONE!!!

DOTA

DOTA

AH!!

DOTA

AH

WHA ...!?

OHH! SO THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE!

WH-WHO ARE YOU...!?

IT'S TER-RIBLE!! SOME-BODY'S DEAD!

IN A CAR!! IT WAS PROBABLY A CARBON MONOXIDE SUICIDE!

WE HAVE TO HURRY AND CALL THE POLICE!

I TRIED TO USE MY CELL TO REPORT IT, BUT I PANICKED AND DROPPED IT IN A PUDDLE. SPLASH, CRASH, GOOD-BYE PHONE!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. ON MY WAY HERE.

EH...? CAR—

UH, UM, I'M SORRY.

MY PHONE IS OUT OF RANGE...

CARBON MONOXIDE SUICIDE?

I'M OUT OF RANGE TOO.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, OTOBE?

PACHIN (SNAP) パチ

I'LL TURN IT ON AND SEE.

HA (GASP) はっ

OTOBE?

UH, RIGHT.

BURA (DANGLE) ブラ

ISN'T IT POINTLESS TO HAVE A PHONE IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE IT OFF?

BURA ブラ

...THE BATTERY WAS ALMOST DEAD...

WELL...

!

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE ONE BAR ON MY PHONE...

AH!

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE OKINOMIYA POLICE AND REPORT IT DIRECTLY.

IT'S NOT EASY GETTING CELL PHONE RECEPTION OUT IN THESE MOUNTAINS.

カコ KAKO

カコ KAKO CLACK

カコ KAKO

I MIGHT GET MORE IF I GO TO THE ENTRANCE HALL.

TATA (SCAMPER)

HELLO ? IS THIS THE POLICE?

WHEW LOOKS LIKE THINGS MIGHT WORK OUT.

.....

IN HINAMI-ZAWA ...

A CARBON MON-OXIDE SUICIDE ...

YES. YES.

NO.

I HEARD IT SECOND-HAND, SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE ...

AH!!!

WHAT HAP-PENED !?

THE BATTERY ...

...DIED.

I'M SORRY...

—...

WHICH MEANS...OUR METHODS OF CONTACTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF...

CHAPTER 4

SO...

...A CARBON MONOXIDE SUICIDE...

TO SPECIFICALLY WISH FOR AND CHOOSE DEATH FOR YOURSELF.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE THESE DAYS.

NO KIDDING...BUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING A LOT LATELY.

GUBI (GULP)

HMMM?

WELL, THIS VILLAGE IS CURSED THROUGH AND THROUGH.

I GUESS YOU JUST CAN'T GET AWAY FROM DEAD PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE.

...I MEAN, THERE ARE MAN-EATING DEMONS FROM HELL SLEEPING HERE, AFTER ALL.

ぷはっ PUHA (HAAAH)

IT WAS CLOSED OFF FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. I FINALLY COME BACK HOME AFTER SO LONG, AND THERE PEOPLE GO, DYING AGAIN.

...I KIND OF GET THE FEELING THAT THERE WILL BE MORE DEATH BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER...

...THE DEMONS MUST HAVE AWAKENED.

AND THE VILLAGE HAS BEEN SEALED AWAY, HUNGRY, FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOW THAT SO MANY VISITORS HAVE COME AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?

...I MIGHT ASK THE SAME THING OF YOU.

...YOU KNOW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT THIS VILLAGE.

AND YOU SAID "COME BACK HOME"...?

WANDERING AROUND THE VILLAGE ALONE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...

JUST WHO ARE YOU?

!

OH, RIGHT. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.

KACHA (CLACK)

PIRA (FLIP)

I'M RYUNOSUKE ARAKAWA.

A POPULAR FREELANCE WRITER!

フリーライター / FREE WRITER

荒川 龍介

RYUNOSUKE ARAKAWA

SO I CAME ON MY OWN DIME TO GET INFO ON THE EERIE FOLKLORE AND PARANORMAL PHENOMENA IN THE VILLAGE.

YOU HAVE QUITE THE UN-USUAL INTER-ESTS ...

ALL RIGHT, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!

RIGHT NOW, HINAMIZAWA IS QUITE THE FAMOUS GHOST VILLAGE AMONG OCCULT ENTHUSIASTS.

I'M PLANNING A FEATURE FOR A MAGAZINE.

MAGAZINES: OCCULT MANIA, SPECIAL FEATURE: HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE / DEMONS / THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMIZAWA / INFILTRATION!! HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE!!

THE MAN SLEEPING OVER THERE CAME WITH ME. HE'S TAKUMI KUROSAWA.

I'M TOWADA... YAE TOWADA.

WE TOOK A DRIVE OUT TO THIS VILLAGE.

...ER, ALONE?

!

I'M AKIRA OTOBE.

I DROVE HERE TOO.

IT COULDN'T BE. IT'S NOTHING THAT SERIOUS. ...I JUST TOOK THE WRONG PATH IN THE DARKNESS AND RAIN, THAT'S ALL.

YOU GOT SEPARATED? THAT'S ROUGH.

WHERE'D YOU LOSE THEM? WE'LL HELP YOU LOOK WHEN IT GETS LIGHTER.

!

DEMONED AWAY...

UM, WELL... THINGS... HAPPENED.

I...I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY FRIENDS...

...N-NO... THAT'S... OKAY.

OTOBE.

60 PICHI (WHAP)

70 PECHI (WHIP)

EH?

UH... UM...

AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVEN'T EATEN A THING.

YOUR FACE IS ALL WHITE.

AH HA HA !!

I...I'M NOT...

BA (THUD)

KUSU (SNICKER)

ARE YOU SCARED?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

KAAAA (PLUUUSH)

WHA ...!?

...YOU'RE IN THE SAME VILLAGE AS A PILE OF CORPSES.

GOKU (GULP)

WELL, OF COURSE YOU ARE. LOOK AT THE SITUATION. IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF YOU WEREN'T SCARED.

...EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT RIGHT BESIDE YOU...

NOW THEN.

THE RAIN HAS PROBABLY LET UP SOME.

TAN (TAP)

CAN: KUROKAME

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.

HUH...? MION-SAN!?

SUTA (STALK)

H... HEY, HEY, HEY.

SUTA

WHAT?

"WHAT?" SHE ASKS...

YOU HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOURSELF! YOUR BACKGROUND'S THE ONE I'M MOST CURIOUS ABOUT!!

HAA (SIGH)

MION SONO-ZAKI.

A RESIDENT OF HINA-MIZAWA VILLAGE.

ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES THAT USED TO CONTROL THE VILLAGE...? THOSE SONOZAKIS !?

SONO-ZAKI ...!? YOU CAN'T MEAN !?

MION-SAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? ALL BY YOURSELF...

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? I CAME HERE ON BUSINESS.

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...

FUI (HUFF)

WHAT? I'M NOT GOING FAR.

HAA (HUFF)
HUN (PANT)
HUN
HAA
MAY I GO WITH YOU PLEASE!!?
...DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
THIS IS MY CHANCE!!
SUPER-EXCITED!!
PIÑA (DING)
I HAVE BUSINESS IN THE BUILDING BEHIND THIS ASSEMBLY HALL.
THE SAIGU-DEN*!?
YOU'RE SERIOUS...? YOU CAN GET INSIDE!!?

*A SAIGUDEN IS A SHRINE THAT HOUSES THE SAIGU, OR TOOLS USED IN WORSHIP CEREMONIES

ARE YOU COMING TOO, TOWADA?
OH
I'LL STAY HERE.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU CAN COME WITH ME.
SAI-GUDEN...? WHAT'S THAT?
I'VE GOT MY ARTI-CLE!!
ALL RIGHT!
NIPAAA (BEEEAMO)

AND AFTER HEARING ABOUT THESE "DEMONED AWAY" STORIES... THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON I CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.

IT WOULD SCARE HIM IF HE WOKE UP AND NO ONE WAS HERE.

WOW, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE, BUT YOU'VE GOT NERVES OF STEEL.

OTOBE, YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM HER.

I SEE ...

TAKE CARE! ♪

WHATEVER, LET'S GO ALREADY!

WHA ...!?

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT SCARED ...

AH-HA-HA!

WHEW ...

GARA (RATTLE)

ガラガラ

ピシャン (SNAP)

...THEY NEEDED TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN. THEY'RE GONE NOW.

HEY, TAKUMI-KUN.

LET'S GO HOME TOO.

...YAE?

エ

PIKU (START)

WHAT WAS ALL THAT NOISE?

WAS SOMEONE HERE?

SO THIS IS THE SAIGUDEN...

SAAAA (RAAAIN)

OH. IT'S LOCKED.

WE CAN'T GET INSIDE THROUGH HERE...

OUT OF THE WAY, OTOBE.

PASHA! (FLASH)

WHOO-HOO!!

PI (BEEP) PI

OH...

I KNEW IT.

PASA (FWOOSH)

HARA (FLUTTER)

EH ?

AH...

I'M MION. MION SONOZAKI.

I AM INDEED A RESIDENT OF THIS VILLAGE.

...REALLY IS...

IT...

...A KATANA ...!!

SUUU (SSHHH...)

EEEEP !?

HYUN (SWOOSH)

I THOUGHT I SAID OUT OF THE WAY.

BIKU

BIKU

HOW...H-H-HOW...CAN YOU WALK AROUND WITH SUCH A DANGEROUS WEAPON!?

BIKU (WINCE)

AND HEY, JUST WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...?

PITA (STOP)

FUO (WHOOSH)

KIIIN (KLING)

ZU
(SLIDE)

LET'S GO.

ZUI
(RESOLUTE)

KACHIN
(CLINK)

GOTON
(THUNK)

...STANDING ALL ALONE IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT. AND...

...HOLDING A JAPANESE SWORD IN HER HAND.

...DID YOU COME TO THIS VILLAGE TO DO...!?

MION-SAN, WHAT IN THE WORLD...

H-HEY! WAIT UP!!

GISHI (CREAK)

WHA...

WHAT IS...

...THIS PLACE?

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...

...BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF THESE ARE PROPS FOR RITUALS...!!

APPARENTLY IN ANCIENT TIMES, HINA-MIZAWA HAD A CUSTOM OF EATING PEOPLE.

IT IS SAID THAT THEY WOULD COME DOWN FROM THEIR VILLAGE, KIDNAP THEIR VICTIMS...

BURU (SHIVER)

THEY LOOK LIKE TORTURE DEVICES...

TO THINK IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE TRUE.

...USE THE TOOLS HERE TO TORTURE THEM TO DEATH, AND COOK THEM.

GU (GAG)

—...!

HEH HEH HEH!

!

...THEY ACTUALLY USED THE DEVICES HERE...?

YOU MEAN...

LOOK AT ALL THIS DUST...

...HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE DEMONS AND ARE BEING COOKED UP RIGHT NOW.

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE PEOPLE IN OTOBE'S CAR WHO DISAP-PEARED...

YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD EXPECT THAT FROM A WRITER.

GACHA GACHA

GIRI (CLENCH)

PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT! IT'S BAD LUCK!!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT HAPPENED !!

THERE'S NO WAY ...!

"DISAP-PEARED"?

M-MION-SAN!!!

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

GOSO

.....

SORRY.

RORI (SCRATCH)

PCR

I DEFINITELY WOULD NOT...

...WANT TO BE TORTURED WITH ANY OF THIS STUFF.

PASHA (FLASH)

PI (BEEP)

STILL, I DON'T KNOW WHO CAME UP WITH IT, BUT THEY REALLY THOUGHT THINGS OUT TO COME UP WITH CARBON MONOXIDE SUICIDE— A WAY TO DIE IN YOUR SLEEP.

THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS, AND SO MANY OF EACH OF THEM...WHY...?

BUT WHY DID THEY NEED ALL THESE TORTURE DEVICES ...?

IT ISN'T JUST FOR DECORATION THAT TORTURE DEVICES ARE MADE TO LOOK SO OMINOUS.

THEY MUST HAVE HAD THE ADDED EFFECT OF INTIMIDATING THE VICTIM INTO THINKING, "I'D HATE TO BE TORTURED IN THAT."

THINKING ABOUT IT REALISTICALLY, THEY WERE PROBABLY USED MORE FOR THEIR RESTRAINING EFFECTS THAN FOR PREPARING THE VICTIMS.

...WHAT WAS THE VILLAGE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE PEOPLE TO DO THAT THEY HAD TO GO SO FAR...?

PERA (FLIP)
PERA
WHAT KINDS OF PRECEPTS ...?
DOSA (THUD)
ドサッ
HINAMIZAWA HAD SOME UNIQUE PRECEPTS.
MAYBE THEY NEEDED ALL THESE TORTURE INSTRUMENTS TO GET PEOPLE TO ABIDE BY THEM...
"DO NOT LET ANYONE ENTER THE VILLAGE."
"DO NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE."
BREAK OFF ALL RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!!

GURO (WANDER)

A BIG DEBATE HAS BEEN SPREADING OVER THE INTERNET IN RECENT YEARS!

THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT TICKLES THE FANCY OF THE OCCULT ENTHUSIASTS.

FUU (WHEW)

GASA (RUSTLE)

GACHAN (CLANK)

WHY ...?

I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHY.

...IS THE "ALIEN PARASITE THEORY."

ONE OF THE ESPECIALLY FAMOUS THEORIES LATELY...

!!

OH.

A-ALIENS?

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU? WELL, LISTEN TO THIS!!

THAT'S A LITTLE...

APPARENTLY THEY WERE PARASITES THAT FED OFF OF HUMANS.

ALIENS CAME FROM SPACE AND LIVED HERE IN HINA-MIZAWA.

AND THEY SAY THAT THE DAY BEFORE THE GAS DISASTER...

...YOU CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING—OYASHIRO-SAMA; HINAMIZAWA'S CUSTOMS, STARTING WITH THE COTTON DRIFTING; THE POWER OF THE THREE FAMILIES. IT ALL MAKES SENSE.

BUILDING ON THIS THEORY ...

...A GIRL FROM THE VILLAGE TOOK OVER THE SCHOOL, DOUSED A CLASS-ROOM IN GASOLINE, AND HELD THE PLACE HOSTAGE, INSISTING THAT ALIENS WERE THE CASE.

THEN THE NEXT DAY, THE GAS DISASTER HAPPENED, AND THE VILLAGERS WERE WIPED OUT.

GACHAN (CLANK)

GACHA (CLANK)

IT SEEMS THAT GIRL'S APPEAL IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CURRENT ALIEN THEORY.

THERE WAS A BIG EXPLOSION IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING.

THE POLICE TRIED TO NEGOTIATE WITH HER, BUT FAILED.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

ALL OF THE STUDENTS SHE WAS HOLDING HOSTAGE... THEY ALL DIED ALONG WITH HER. IT WAS A SERIOUS TRAGEDY.

THEY SAY THAT SHE FORETOLD THE DISASTER AS PART OF HER PLEA.

WHO KNOWS...? THERE'S NO WAY TO CONFIRM WHAT'S TRUE ANYMORE.

PATAN (SHUT)

SO THAT GIRL SAW THE FUTURE ?

...HEH!

THERE'S EVEN A THEORY AMONG SOME ENTHUSIASTS THAT IT WAS A GAS ATTACK BY A SECRET GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION TO WIPE OUT THE ALIENS.

FIRST OF ALL, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THOSE WHO DOUBT THE DISASTER WAS REALLY A NATURAL ONE. THEY'RE STILL AROUND TODAY.

HEH HEH HEH!!

ACCORDING TO THAT LOGIC, THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I'M POSSESSED BY THESE ALIEN PARASITES TOO, WOULDN'T IT?

!?

AH HA HA HA!

HEH HEH HEH!

YOU REALLY DO KNOW YOUR STUFF.

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT THE ME I APPEAR TO BE.

I AM POS-SESSED!

...HEH HEH HEH!!

.....

DO DOU (BURU SHIVER)

STOP THAT! PLEASE! THAT JOKE...

...S—

WH- WHAT'S WRO—

ARA- KAWA- SAN...?

GASH! (CLAMP)

... ISN'T FUNNY ...

...!?

WHAT? YOU CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE? OH WELL, THERE'S NO HELPING IT. YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO WAIT FOR US BY YOURSELF, SO I'LL GO WITH YOU!!

GUI

GUI (TUG)

BATA (STAMP)

OKAY, LET'S GO!

BATA

BATA

OHH? WHAT'S WRONG, OTOBE-KUN? YOUR FACE IS SUPER-PALE!!!

?

EH? NO, ARAKAWA-SAN... ACTUALLY, I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO—

?

.....

GASHA GASHA

GASHAN (CLANK)

DOSA (THUD)

HUFF ...!

HUFF!

WHEW... WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT!?

BAN (WHAM)

IS THAT... REALLY MION SONOZAKI?

EH?

Victims List

Mion Sonozaki

Ke□chi □eba

Sa□ o

SONO-ZAKI...

SONO-ZAKI...

BA (OPEN)

ARAKAWA-SAN?

BARA

BARA

BARA (FLIP)

SHE'S DEAD...

HAA (HUFF)

HA''

WHAT ABOUT MION-SAN?

EH...?

SHE DIED.

MION SONO-ZAKI...

...WAS ONE OF THE VICTIMS ...

...IN THE SCHOOL HOSTAGE CASE.

I...

...AM NOT THE ME I APPEAR TO BE.

I AM POSSESSED!

HUH ...?

BASA (FWOOSH)

CHAPTER 5

SAAAA
(SHHHH)

GASA
(RUSTLE
GASA

BUT THREE MORE PEOPLE CAME.

STILL, THAT WAS A SURPRISE...I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE HERE.

IT'S A GOOD THING THE RAIN LET UP A LITTLE.

GASA

GASA

GASA

GASA

FUWAAA (YAAAWN)

あいあい

.....

.....

.....

HUH ...?

PASHAN (SPLASH)

KYORO

EH?

...EH?

...EH?

KYORO (GLANCE)

KYORO

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHY ...?

YAE?

SAAAAAAAAAAAA (SHHHHHHHHH)

THE CAR, IT'S...

...THE CAR...

...
GONE
...!!?

FOUND IT...!!

...BUT... TO THINK IT WOULD BE SO MUCH TROUBLE JUST TO FIND THE KEY.

NOW ALL I NEED IS THE SCROLL!!

GYU (CLENCH)

THE TAMAHAJIKI NO KATANA*!

*LITERALLY, "SPHERE-REPELLING BLADE." TAMA ("SPHERE") CAN ALSO MEAN "BULLET" OR "SOUL."

MEW.

YOU'RE BACK—

...WHAT?

GATAN (CLACK)

WHERE COULD IT BE...?

I'LL HELP YOU.

JUST A LITTLE.

はっ
HA (GASP)

コーン
KON (CLUNK)

コロ
KORO

コロ
KORO

ROLL

バ
BA (TURN)

……

SHE'S GONE …

I'M SURE THIS IS WHERE I PARKED IT...

YORO (SWOON)

WHY ...?

HOW?

AH? HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

EVERYONE DISAPPEARED ON THE WAY HERE.

THE WHOLE CAR.

AS SOON AS I GOT OUT TO ANSWER THE CALL OF NATURE.

...IS WHAT WE CALL "DEMONED AWAY."

GASHAN (CRASH)

ガーゴッ

DOSA (THUD)

KURA STAGGER

THE WHOLE CAR...

THAT...

GARI-GARI-GARI-GARI-
CRUNCH
...WHAT?
GACH (SHUDDER)
GACH
IT CAN'T BE...
GACH!
HEY, YAE!! WHY IS THE CAR GONE?

NGH ...!
BA (TURN)
ばっ
TA...

CAR
CRUNCH

TAKUMI-
KU...!

BIKU (WINCE)

GARA (RATTLE)

PATAN (SHUT)

I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.

M-MION-SAN...

GISHI (CREAK)

I'M GOING BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

...BUT...

MAYBE... YOU WERE AN ILLUSION...

...THANK YOU...

...RIKA-CHAN...

MION SONOZAKI WAS ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SCHOOL HOSTAGE CASE.

GISHI (CREAK)

WHO THE HELL...

...ARE YOU?

HEY!!

MI—

YOU...

Y—

KYAAAAAAA!

OTOBE!

HUH?

TOWADA-SAN...!

TO—

WH-WHAT THE—!?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

...ER... HUH?

TAN (DASH)

WAH!

HOLD THIS!

BA— (TOSS)

BASSA (FWOOSH)

MION-SAN!?

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZAZA (WHOOSH)

PASHA
(SPLASH)
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
!

CHAPTER 6

TOWADA!!

GATA (SHUDDER)

GATA

GATA

GATA

...NN? HEY!

HUFF. HUFF

OH GOOD!

YOU'RE SAFE.

PASHA

MION-SAN!

TOWADA-SAN!!

PASHA (SPLASH)

TAKUMI-KUN!! TAKUMI-KUN, HE—!!!

TOWADA!

PIKU (WINCE)

YOU'RE ALONE ?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO WAS WITH YOU?

AH ...

AH.

CALM DOWN. YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME.

TELL US WHAT HAP-PENED.

AH ...

HUFF...

HUFF...

WE...

WE WERE GOING TO GO HOME...

WE CAME DOWN THE STAIRS TO GET INTO OUR CAR.

I HAD PARKED THE CAR RIGHT BESIDE THE STAIRS.

BUT...

...IT WAS GONE.

COM-PLETELY GONE, WITHOUT A TRACE...

THE CAR!?

.....!!

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKUMI?

THE CAR WAS GONE. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON...

I GOT ...

... SCARED.

KATA

KATA (SHUDDER)

AND THEN... FOOTSTEPS... I HEARD FOOTSTEPS COMING FROM BEHIND US.

THAT'S RIGHT!! SOMEONE WAS HERE! THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE HERE!

AND THEN TAKUMI-KUN...

... BEHIND ...

... TAKUMI-KUN.

WHEN I TURNED AROUND ...

TAKUMI-KUN... THERE WAS SOMEONE ...

OH... TAKUMI-KUN...! TAKUMI-KUN!! WHAT'LL I DO? I ABANDONED HIM...

SUKK-STAND!

TAKUMI-KUN WAS ATTACKED... I WAS SCARED, SO SCARED ...

I RAN FOR MY LIFE!

... ALONE !!

I DON'T SENSE ANY-ONE HERE...

.....

SHIN-CSILENCE

H-HE'S RIGHT!! TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE...

IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO ALONE! I'LL GO WITH YOU...

WHA...?

I'M GOING TO CHECK THINGS OUT BELOW. STAY HERE, AND DON'T MOVE.

.....

I'LL BE FINE. STAY THERE.

GATA (SHUDDER)

SHIKKARI (CLING)

GATA

AND THREE IS BETTER THAN TWO!!!

BURU

BURU (SHIVER)

BURU

I THINK I DROPPED IT WHILE WE WERE RUNNING.

WHA ...!?

I'LL GO LOOK FOR IT.

HOLD THE KATANA, PLEASE.

LET ME SEE IT! MAYBE IT'S STILL GOT A LITTLE JUICE!

EH? BUT IT'S OUT OF POWER...

YOUR PHONE HAS A SIGNAL RIGHT?

HEY!! WE REALLY SHOULD CALL THE POLICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

...!!

WHAT?

H-HUH?

WHEN YOU FIND YOUR PHONE, CALL THE POLICE RIGHT AWAY!!

PASHA

PASHA (SPLASH)

HEY!! YOU BE CAREFUL!

...BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE: THIS IS NOT NORMAL.

TA-KUMI-KUN

TA-KUMI-KUN.

WHEW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...

GASP!

DID YOU SEE A MOTORCYCLE? THAT'S HOW I GOT HERE.

KACHIN (CLINK)

DON'T TELL ME THAT'S GONE TOO.

AND THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANY OTHER PEOPLE AROUND EITHER.

JARI (CRUNCH)

I MADE A FULL CIRCLE AROUND, BUT THE CAR REALLY WAS GONE.

MY, MY.

SHURU (SHRR)

...TOO BAD.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ALL MADE FRIENDS AND GOT DEMONED AWAY TOGETHER.

NIYARI (SMIRK)

THAT'S...

LET'S GO BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL FOR NOW.

ANYWAY, IT'S NO USE STANDING AROUND HERE FOREVER.

FURA (STAGGER)

MY LITTLE CUB*

GAAAAAN (CLAAAANG)

*AS IN HONDA SUPER CUB, A TYPE OF MOTORCYCLE

...OH...

WHERE'S OTOBE?

...YES ...

HEY! DID YOU FIND YOUR PHONE?

YOUR PHONE IS THE SAME MODEL AS SONOZAKI-SAN'S, ISN'T IT?

YEAH!!? THAT'S GREAT! I REALIZED SOMETHING.

I FOUND MY PHONE, BUT...

HEY! IF YOU TRADE BATTERIES, YOU CAN USE—

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU UNDER-ESTIMATING A JOURNALIST'S OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS!

HEH HEH!

OH, IS THAT RIGHT? I DIDN'T NOTICE.

OH! THERE HE IS! OTOBE-KUN!

I ONLY DROPPED IT...

HUH?

...IT'S STRANGE ...

AH (BURAN (DANGLE) ...!!

...SO HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS...?

!!!?

BUT WHO ...?

AND WHY...?

"WHY"?

THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK IS THAT SOMEONE SMASHED IT.

TO THREATEN US! TO SAY, "THIS IS WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO YOU TOO!!"

IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT!!? TO CUT OFF OUR COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

WHAT OTHER REASON COULD THERE BE!?

TOWADA-SAN, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

ARE YOU OKAY ...?

.....

BURU (SHIVER)

BURU

GATA (SHUDDER)

GATA

GATA

GARA (RATTLE)

PATA (PATTER)

PATA

HIRA (FLUTTER)

!

YOU'RE REALLY COLD! PLEASE WAIT HERE. I'LL GO FIND A BLANKET OR SOMETHING ...

GUI (TUG)

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

BLANKET, BLANKET ...

AH.

FOUND ONE!

GOSO

BOTON (THUNK)

...EH?

WHAT IS THIS...?

?

ARM

AN

ARRGH!!

HUUUH

AAHHH

AAH!

BA (DASH)

HAA (HUFF)

はぁ…っ

はあ…っ

HAA

ZURU..! (DRAG..!)

MI-MION-SA...!

H-HEY, HEY, HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?

.....

...Z...

ZURU (DRAG)

TAKUMI-KUN!!

TAKUMI-KUN!

TAKUMI-KUN!

WH... WHAT'S GOING ON?

HUFF

HE'S DEAD...

WAAA

BURU (SHIVER)

DID THE KLLER EVEN PREDICT THAT WHEN WE DIDN'T FIND ANY CLUES, WE'D COME BACK HERE...

BURU

...THEN GET COLD AND PULL OUT THE BLANKETS...?

IS THAT WHY HE PUT THE BODY IN THE CLOSET...?

IT'S MY PHONE.

I LEFT IT HERE...

...BECAUSE I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HELP US ANYWAY.

CHARI (RATTLE)

ARA-KAWA-SAN ...?

LOOK AT THIS.

IF THE KILLER CAME HERE, THEN HE OR SHE MUST HAVE SEEN IT.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS !!!?

BUT IT'S NOT BROKEN.

BUT...

...IT'S NOT BROKEN.

HE OR SHE KNEW.

THE KILLER KNEW THERE WAS NO NEED TO BREAK IT.

I DROPPED IT IN A PUDDLE. THE PHONE IS USELESS.

AND ONLY THE PEOPLE HERE KNOW...

...THAT OTOBE-KUN'S PHONE HAD A SIGNAL.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNOW THAT ARE THE ONES RIGHT HERE.

ARA-KAWA-SAN?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?

WHAT...

...ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...!!?

...YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT?

AT THE VERY LEAST...

...THE PERSON WHO BROKE YOUR PHONE ...

...IS ONE OF US!!

MAYBE THERE'S A STRANGER UP HERE WITH EVIL INTENTIONS ...?

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE PHONES?

B-BUT!

TOWADA-SAN WAS ATTACKED BY SOMEONE ELSE!

NOT ONLY HAS OUR ABILITY TO CONTACT THE OUTSIDE BEEN DESTROYED, BUT OUR MEANS OF ESCAPE—THE CAR AND MOTORCYCLE—HAVE DISAPPEARED!

THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THE MURDERER...

...HAS TRAPPED US HERE AND IS PLANNING TO KILL US ALL!!

HAA (SIGH)

RIDICULOUS.

NGH...!

...ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T READ TOO MANY MYSTERY NOVELS?

...SONO-ZAKI-SAN...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT.

WE DON'T KNOW YOUR MOTIVE FOR COMING HERE.

AND SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT ABOUT YOU CARRYING AROUND THAT KATANA.

IN ADDITION TO A NUMBER OF OTHER REASONS TO SUSPECT YOU!!

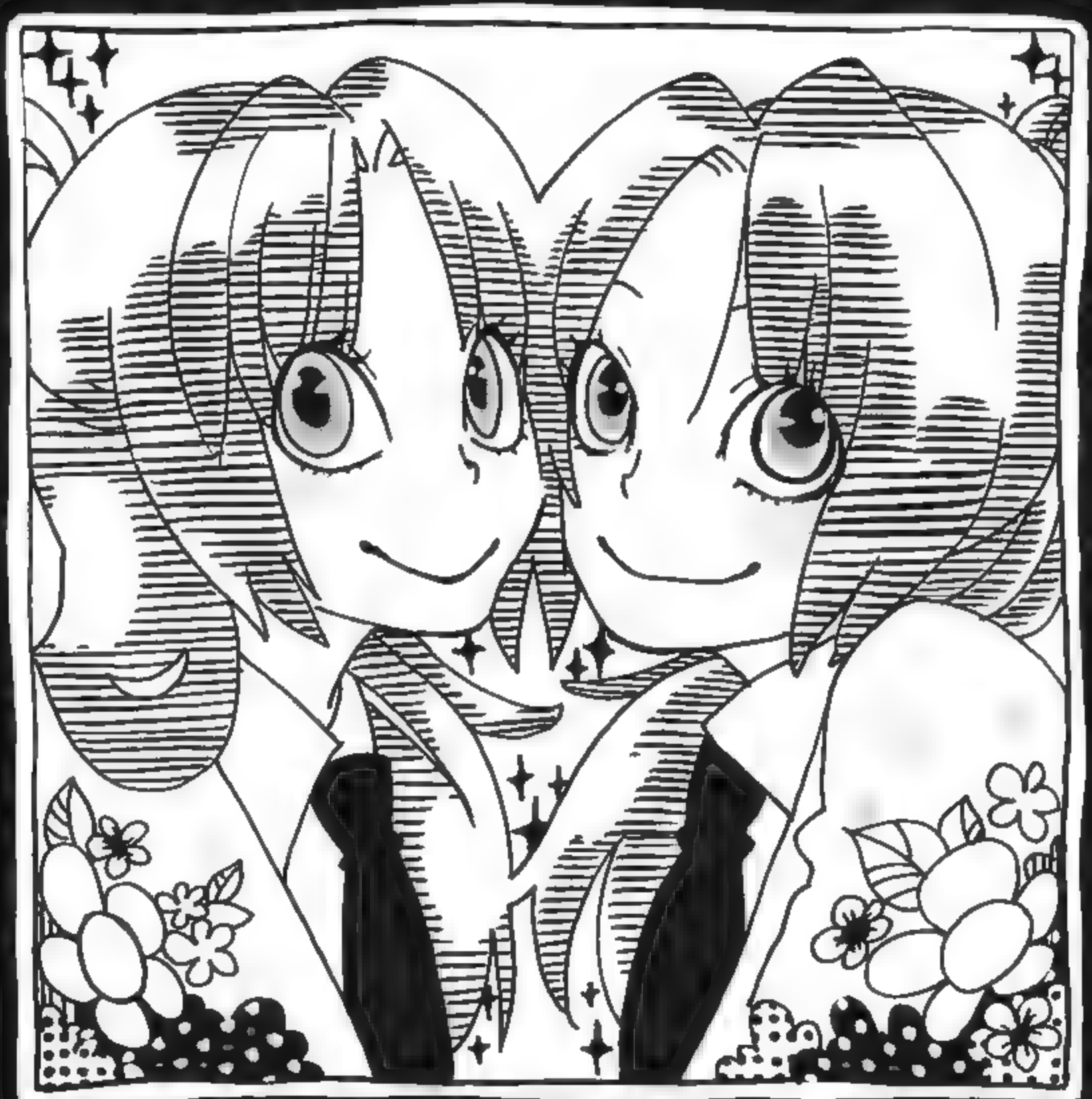
er Victims List

JUST EXACT-LY...

...WHO ARE YOU ...!!?

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC ❶ END

HIGURASHI LOVE DOODLES



DEMON COTTON CURSE TIME EYE ATONE MIDNIGHT

First Grade Class K

Name: Mimori

NII-
NII.

BLECH!

I HATE PUMPKIN!

OH HO HO HO!

SATOKO HOJO

WAAAH!

RECEIPT

SUPER-MARKET

PLEASE EAT YOUR PUMPKIN!

TWANG!

SATOSHI DISCOVERS MOE

MAID

A MAID, A MAID!

I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!

BEYOND MIDNIGHT

I LIKE COOL PATTERNS.

BE-YOND MID-NIGHT ARC

AKANE-SAN-ESQUE.

OTOBE-KUN

A MAID, A MAID!

OHHH.

HER PART WAS DIFFERENT THAN IT IS NOW.

BLACK HAIR

ZZZZ...ZZZZ...

A MOLE BY HER MOUTH (JUST BE-CAUSE)

HMM...

HE'S SO YOUNG AGE HIM MORE

IRII

MAIDS, MAIDS, MAIDS!

RIKA-CHAMA

OHAGI

SONOZAKI SISTERS

SNAP! SNAP!

IRII

MEW.

OH HO HO HO

MM...

MEW

OHHH.

IT WAS SHORT-SLEEVED.

BAT

PENALTY GAME

NNGGHAAAH.

I'M TAKING...

GYA HA HA HA

MEW

WHAT DO I THINK OF RENA?

OH HO HO HO

RENA'S SO CUTE.

K

KEI-ICHI

BEEEAM!!

ABOUT THE "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI 07

THE "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC" IS A NEW SIDE STORY THAT WASN'T IN THE ORIGINAL GAME SERIES.

THE SETTING IN THE SIDE STORY HAS LEFT THE YEAR 1983 AND TAKES PLACE IN THE PRESENT DAY, BUT THE WORLD AND LAWS THAT MAKE UP THE FOUNDATION OF THE "HIGURASHI" SERIES STILL CARRY OVER. IN THAT SENSE, I MAY CALL IT A SIDE STORY, BUT IT IS STILL A LEGITIMATE "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY" ARC THAT IS IN NO WAY INFERIOR TO THE OTHERS.

THE OTHER EPISODES ARE FILLED WITH THE CRY OF THE HIGURASHI CICADAS, WHICH BRINGS A SAD FEELING IN THE MIDST OF TRANQUILLITY, BUT THOSE VOICES GO UNHEARD IN THE WORLD OF THIS "BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC." INSTEAD, ALL WE HEAR IS THE GENTLE, MELANCHOLY SOUND OF THE RAIN LATE AT NIGHT. FOUR MEN AND WOMEN GATHER IN A QUIET, EERIE, ABANDONED VILLAGE, NOT KNOWING WHO THE OTHERS ARE. BY A STRANGE COINCIDENCE, THEY TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN TOGETHER...IN THE DESERTED VILLAGE THAT WAS WIPED OUT IN A SINGLE NIGHT BY THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER LONG AGO.

MIMORI-SENSEI HAS WONDERFULLY DEPICTED THAT MYSTERIOUS AND EERIE WORLD WITH THE TIP OF A PEN PREGNANT WITH DELICACY AND BEWITCHING CHARM. I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE CONTINUATION OF THIS STORY OF A BIZARRE NIGHT IN THE RAIN....

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
BEYOND MIDNIGHT ARC ❶

RYUKISHI07
Mimori

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Beyond Midnight Arc, Vol. 1
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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23766-6

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23873-1